

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty, and concern for others, and each of these attributes can be ascribed to Dr. Lon Kightlinger, who will be retiring from the state of South Dakota Department of Health after nearly 20 years of service; and,

Whereas, Lon earned his biology degree from Augustana College, a master's in Public Health from Tulane University, and a doctorate in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina; and,

Whereas, During Lon's tenure as State Epidemiologist for the South Dakota Department of Health, he was often referred to as the agency's conscience for consistently urging colleagues to follow the data and make decisions grounded in science, helping lead to critical public health initiatives such as the Governor's Infant Mortality Task Force and a joint state and tribal suicide prevention effort; and,

Whereas, Lon took seriously the Department's responsibility to educate the public and was recognized throughout the state as a calm, reassuring voice regarding health threats from West Nile Virus to seasonal influenza from his hundreds of media interviews and public presentations; and,

Whereas, Lon earned the respect of colleagues within the Department and in the larger public health community in South Dakota, and he personally supported and encouraged many who went on to pursue advanced degrees in public health and health care; and,

Whereas, Lon was highly regarded by his counterparts in the Association of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and at the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which called him into service in Guinea, Africa during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak; and,

Whereas, On November 3, 2017, Lon is retiring from the Department but will continue to work in public health as he returns to Africa's health missions, therefore, it is fitting and proper as Governor to make special note of this outstanding South Dakotan on this momentous occasion:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 3, 2017, as

DR. LON KIGHTLINGER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in offering him best wishes for a long, healthy, happy, and enjoyable retirement.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Nineteenth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State